

Shaping the Future of Plastic Waste Management: Legal Dynamics and Their Influence on Outsourcing Enterprises in Poland and the EU

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Abstract

This research delves into the evolution of legal regulations governing plastic waste management within Poland and the European Union, highlighting the consequential effects on outsourcing companies involved in waste management services. The theoretical backdrop encompasses environmental legislation theories, with a focus on the circular economy and sustainable development principles that guide current waste management practices. Aiming to bridge the knowledge gap, this study assesses how changes in legal frameworks have influenced the operational, financial, and strategic dimensions of outsourcing enterprises in the waste management sector. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the research combines qualitative analysis of legal documents, including EU directives and Polish waste management laws, with quantitative data on waste management performance indicators. Preliminary findings reveal that stringent EU regulations, such as the Single-Use Plastics Directive, have necessitated substantial adjustments in the business models of outsourcing companies, driving innovation but also imposing significant compliance costs. The study further identifies a notable shift towards enhanced recycling rates and adoption of circular economy practices among these enterprises, though challenges related to the adaptability and financial burden persist. The implications of this research extend to policy formulation, suggesting that supportive mechanisms are essential to alleviate the impact of outsourcing firms while ensuring the effectiveness of waste management systems. This analysis contributes to the broader discourse on environmental policy's role in shaping industry practices, offering insights for policymakers, business leaders, and stakeholders in the waste management ecosystem.

Keywords: plastic waste management, legal regulations, outsourcing companies, circular economy, EU directives, waste management performance